



4160-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2011-E-0277]

Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; BEYAZ

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined the regulatory review period for BEYAZ and is publishing this notice of that determination as required by law. FDA has made the determination because of the submission of an application to the Director of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, for the extension of a patent which claims that human drug product.

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic comments to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written petitions along with three copies and written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Beverly Friedman,
Office of Regulatory Policy,
Food and Drug Administration,
10903 New Hampshire Ave.,
Bldg. 51, rm. 6284,
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002,

301-796-3602.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-417) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act (Public Law 100-670) generally provide that a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years so long as the patented item (human drug product, animal drug product, medical device, food additive, or color additive) was subject to regulatory review by FDA before the item was marketed. Under these acts, a product's regulatory review period forms the basis for determining the amount of extension an applicant may receive.

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For human drug products, the testing phase begins when the exemption to permit the clinical investigations of the drug becomes effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the human drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the drug product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Director of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example, half the testing phase must be subtracted as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for a human drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(1)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the human drug product BEYAZ (drospirenone, ethinyl estradiol, and levomefolate calcium). BEYAZ is indicated for use in women to: Prevent pregnancy; treat symptoms of premenstrual dysphoric disorder for women who choose to use an oral contraceptive for contraception; treat moderate acne for women at least 14 years old only if

the patient desires an oral contraceptive for birth control; and raise folate levels in women who choose to use an oral contraceptive for contraception. Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for BEYAZ (U.S. Patent No. 6,441,168) from Eprova AG, and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated March 28, 2012, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this human drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of BEYAZ represented the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product. Thereafter, the Patent and Trademark Office requested that FDA determine the product's regulatory review period.

FDA has determined that the applicable regulatory review period for BEYAZ is 1,271 days. Of this time, 874 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 397 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. The date an exemption under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) became effective: April 4, 2007. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that the date the investigational new drug application became effective was on April 4, 2007.

2. The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505(b) of the FD&C Act: August 24, 2009. The applicant claims August 21, 2009, as the date the new drug application (NDA) for BEYAZ (NDA 22-532) was initially submitted. However, FDA records indicate that NDA 22-532 was submitted on August 24, 2009.

3. The date the application was approved: September 24, 2010. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 22-532 was approved on September 24, 2010.

This determination of the regulatory review period establishes the maximum potential length of a patent extension. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office applies several statutory limitations in its calculations of the actual period for patent extension. In its application for patent extension, this applicant seeks 834 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published are incorrect may submit to the Division of Dockets Management (see ADDRESSES) either electronic or written comments and ask for a redetermination by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. Furthermore, any interested person may petition FDA for a determination regarding whether the applicant for extension acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period by July 30, 2013. To meet its burden, the petition must contain sufficient facts to merit an FDA investigation. (See H. Rept. 857, part 1, 98th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 41-42, 1984.) Petitions should be in the format specified in 21 CFR 10.30.

Interested persons may submit to the Division of Dockets Management (see ADDRESSES) electronic or written comments and written petitions. It is only necessary to send one set of comments. However, if you submit a written petition, you must submit three copies of the petition. Identify comments with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Comments and petitions that have not been made publicly available on <http://www.regulations.gov> may be viewed in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: January 24, 2013.

Leslie Kux,
Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2013-02086 Filed 01/30/2013 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 01/31/2013]